

HIDEO AND SAWAME SHIMIZU

An interview with Hideo Shimizu and his wife Sawame Furuta Shimizu, by Lucy Kortum for the Petaluma Museum's "Chicken House Project," a study of Petaluma area Poultry Pioneers. The interview took place at the Shimizu home on Willow Avenue, south of Cotati, on May 25, 1993. Both Hideo and Sawame Shimizu are Nisei ("second generation," born in the United States of Issei, "first generation" parents who had been born in Japan.) Hideo was born in Hawaii in 1905, and Sawame was born in Santa Rosa, California, in 1912.

LK: Mr. Shimizu, your wife has already told me that you came here in 1923; where did you come from?

HS: We had a vineyard down at Tulare County, Cutler, and I was going to school in Orosl. Well, the vineyard wasn't too good in those days, just barely coming to bear. My father had had a boarding house before that. He wanted me to be raised on the farm. So he sold his boarding house and then we went out to the vineyard. I was going to school at that time.

LK: What level of school were you at that time?

HS: I'd started high school. In grammar school I was in Dinuba. My father wasn't too good at farming but he wanted me to be raised on a farm. It was on open land, he bought it and planted some vines.

LK: How long did you stay there?

HS: About two years. And then a person in Petaluma offered to exchange a ranch over here with a ranch in Cutler. My mother was interested in raising chickens because she had about a hundred chickens there, running around on the farm, you know. We didn't have to feed them anything because they were picking up the food, so for her, raising chickens was all profit. My father could have made more in trade, but my mother wanted the chicken ranch so badly that he just gave it up and came over to Petaluma.

Just at that time I was in Japan because my father sent my brother into Japan to get some Japanese education and before coming to Petaluma, my father thought that I might as well go to Japan and bring him back.

Comments 6/1:

HS: I had been back to Japan when I was five years. My mother took the oldest three children. I was the third, and first son, of ten children. She took my two older sisters and me. No, my oldest sister had been born in Japan and had stayed there. She took my next older sister, myself, and my next younger sister. I was sick the whole time and she brought me back. My sisters stayed in Japan and later died there.

SS: My father had a different philosophy. He didn't send any of us back to Japan.

SS: When I came back to San Francisco, my father was already in Petaluma, so he came to pick us up, and that's how we got started here.

LK: Was that this very ranch that you came to?

HS: No, to a little farm on the other side of Penngrove. It used to be partly Penngrove, but it's in the city limits of Petaluma now, just where 101 meets the old road, just at the hillside. My father never had any experience in chickens, my mother either, for that matter, because she didn't have to feed anything. But over there we had to raise more chickens, had to feed them, had to buy everything.

LK: When you came, was it already set up as a poultry ranch?

HS: It was already a poultry ranch. The only thing is, the old man that was there didn't care for raising chickens anyway, so he had chickens running around. And we thought, in our experience in chickens, that we didn't have to have any chicken houses. We'd had chickens running all around. When it rained they'd go in through the shed where we used to keep horses. A hundred and something chickens didn't need too much place to go and that's all we, my mother, thought, a few hundred chickens. When we came over here, why, a few hundred chickens mean nothing.

LK: Did you have friends here that you could ask about how to raise chickens?

HS: No.

LK: How did you go about finding what to do?

HS: Oh, we had feed houses.

LK: You'd consult with them, and they'd help you?

HS: Well, they loaned us the money that we wanted. And so my father found out that everything wasn't so easy, because feed houses, when they want their money, they come and try to get it any way. And my father had nothing to offer, only the ranch, and a ranch with just a dwelling house and a couple of small shacks.

LK: How many of you were there to help? There were you and you'd brought your brother back with you from Japan, your mom and dad, were there other children to help too?

HS: Well, I had two sisters at that time, but they were small, just ready to start school. And I wasn't interested in farming anyway, because I was almost at graduating age. I came over here, tried to look for work, there was no work here, so I had to go to Sebastopol and work in the apple orchard. I got work was with a man who ran a drier over there. I used to come back and forth and visit my father. But when you're working out you can't make enough to run a business, you know.

LK: Did you live at home and work in Sebastopol?

HS: I moved to Sebastopol, just myself. I was almost graduating age, and worked a little, then came back to Petaluma to go to school. At Orsi, I used to work all summer long and then I'd lose about a month of school, but I used to catch up with my grades. When I came over here and went to work, and thought I'd work until maybe October and then come back to school in

Petaluma. But when I came back to Petaluma, they knew I couldn't catch up that lost time, things were a little harder over here. Over there, the teacher knew me, so as soon as I'd start school around October, by December I used to catch up on anything that I'd lost. And I kept my grades up. But in Petaluma, I couldn't graduate in '24 because I'd started school a little late and the teacher told me to take another half a year. And so I graduated in January of 1925. It was a good thing, though, because that was the first January class they had. All the others were June classes.

LK: So then did you stay at the chicken ranch and help your father, after you graduated, or did you go back to Sebastopol?

HS: Well, when I started going to school, then I had to help my father.

LK: Were they able to keep that chicken ranch?

HS: They were deeply in debt. They couldn't make it so we asked some of the people who had been in chicken ranching, and they didn't have a very good thing to say about chicken ranching. So this place [the Willow Avenue ranch where this interview is taking place] was open, and the person that owned this place wanted someone to run this ranch, so he gave it to my father for taking care of it, and at the same time he promised to build the chicken houses, and so my father thought it was a good idea.

LK: So he could come here, but the man still owned the land?

HS: Just he and my father talked it over. I stayed in Sebastopol, while my father, with the three children, had enough help.

LK: Did it work better for them here?

SS: There were no chicken houses here at that time, you know. His father came here and he did all the building...

HS: Well, the owner built two of them...

SS: And the rest your dad did.

HS: He didn't have any money to build them with, so he just had to borrow on the ranch.

SS: The owner moved to the little house over there. He had one son, Joseph. We're good friends. And there were people here who were in the business for years, there was one man who was in his forties, I guess, whose dad was in the business already, and they gave him ideas on how to run it, what to feed the chickens, they were a good help.

SS: My parents, they didn't know anything about chickens. He [her father, Ichizo Furuta, called "Ich", pronounced "itch"] was a grocer in Santa Rosa.

LK: Was that right in Santa Rosa?

SS: He started his grocery before the earthquake, but at this time I don't know where that road

is. It was at the end of Fourth Street where it comes around, there was a creek there, you go over the bridge, and it comes into Sebastopol Avenue. His grocery store was on this side of the bridge, closer to Sebastopol Avenue. I wasn't born then. Later on he moved his grocery to Second Street. The corner of Third Street was a big hotel before the earthquake. Later on, as I remember, there was just a gas station at that corner. So I grew up in that area, the main street, the court house, that was my "stomping ground."

Comment 6.1:

In Santa Rosa, around my father's store, I remember the circus parades coming from the train station up Fourth Street. All the animals and clowns. And the Rose Carnival around the Courthouse. I went everywhere, knew all the shopkeepers.

LK: Do you remember Luther Burbank?

SS: No, that was across the creek. We weren't allowed across the creek.

LK: Did he stay in the grocery business during your growing up years?

SS: Until 1914. He used to go get supplies in San Francisco on a buckboard, and you know how that road was, before the freeway, on to Sausalito and get on the boat and go in to San Francisco. But most of his big things, like a sack of rice and the big things, used to come by train. And in those days guys would come from Japan that didn't have wives, and in Healdsburg and Windsor, they'd work in the hop fields. They would stay in a boarding house, and they had a cook that cooked all the food, and my dad used to send a whole train car load of supplies into Healdsburg. But he said that if the honest guy would come to the cookhouse it was fine. But he said some crooked guys, they took off. This man would cook and the workers would pay him and he would take off with the money and wouldn't pay my dad for the supplies. So he said that was one of the things that he had to take a loss. And there were times when his friend would say, "Better go to the station, this guy's going to take off, the cook," so he would wait for him to collect his money. So those days were bad days. They were hard.

LK: So when did your two paths cross?

SS: Well, I was going to high school, and my folks were living in Sebastopol, and during the summer season they would work in the apple drier. They had given up the grocery store a long time ago and he started a strawberry ranch on Sonoma Avenue and Summerfield Road, twelve acres, or eight acres, of strawberries. In 1918, during the influenza, he gave it up and moved to Fountain Grove, and we lived with Kanaye Nagasawa [successor and adopted heir of Thomas Lake Harris, founder of the utopian community of Fountain Grove, who died in 1906. Then Nagasawa and other surviving members divided the property and remained there until Nagasawa's death in 1934.] My father was fluent in Japanese and educated, so he would write letters for the old man. He wouldn't write the letter but would ask my dad to write the letter, so in that way he was on a friendly basis with Kanaye Nagasawa, and so we stayed there for about eight years, maybe, until 1928, I think. The house we lived in on the Old Redwood Highway was the only house below the big round barn, and we were robbed so many times my father said, well, I'm not going to stay here any more. He had a cousin in Alvarado, down near Hayward, so we moved over there and then his friend in Sebastopol wanted him to come and work for him in a drier, about 1928, I guess, so we came back. I

was in high school and, instead of staying in Sebastopol, I lived in with the family of Don Martin in Santa Rosa. He had the Purity Chemical, his wife was a teacher in high school, and she wanted me to help her with her housework so she could work. So that's when I met him. He was at the drier. That's how we met.

LK: You're both connected to Sebastopol and apples, how did it happen that somewhere along the line you decided to throw your lot in with Petaluma and chickens?

HS: Well, the fellow that I was working for had a place near Watsonville, he wanted someone to run it over there, and so he chose me to run it, and so one year I went.

LK: This was another apple drier?

HS: Another apple drier. And the second year, well, I didn't want to go alone, so...

SS: I didn't know that was the reason why he wanted to get married. I was almost seventeen and I wanted to go to school yet, but he didn't want to leave me here and go over there, he thought someone else was going to get me [both chuckle], that's why we got married. I got married young. And after we got married, we went one year working over there in Watsonville. I don't know how much we brought home. After paying room and board there wasn't too much. Still, at that time, 1929, 1930, working for fifteen cents an hour, you don't have very much left after you pay for your room and board. Fifteen cents an hour.

LK: And you had to provide your room and board.

SS: When we got married I really wanted to eat candy, and I couldn't afford five cents for a bar of candy. [laughs] I can remember that because I wanted the candy.

LK: You had to start being practical real quick, didn't you?

SS: Well, we brought home maybe a couple of hundred dollars, did we? Soon after that, I got pregnant. We got married in September 1929, and in January I found out I was pregnant, and from then on the kids came one after another, so I stayed here.

LK: Back here, at this place.

SS: I stayed with his mother and his sister. I stayed with his mother for twenty-five years. A dominating grandma too, you know.

Comment 6/1:

His mother lived with us until she died. It's the Japanese custom that the oldest son stays with the parents, takes care of the old folks, and gets the property. But not always, not if he hasn't demonstrated that he's responsible.

LK: All of you right here in this house, then?

SS: Yes. And he had a brother. And he got a place for him in North Petaluma Avenue and he stocked the place, about three thousand pullets.

Comment 6/1:

LK: *Is that partly why he helped his brother get established on the other place, because the brother wouldn't get this place.*

SS: *Yes. It's also customary, he also gave all the sisters bedroom sets when they got married. It made his mother very happy.*

LK: [to HS] And were you living here at this ranch too? Were you living here and working someplace else?

HS: Well, I wasn't home at all. My father and my brother were doing most of the work. I was going to Petaluma to find a place for my brother to take over and start.

LK: Where was that?

SS: Right across the road from where there's a car sales place, I think, up on the hill, near Denman Flat.

LK: So you were working with him to establish that one, your parents were here running this ranch, everybody must have been working really really hard to do all this. Then were you able to come back here, or...

SS: Before that, you were 27 at the time, his father did all the building and the ranch had so much debt and they couldn't pay it, so McNear, and Golden Eagle, and Crowleys, they attached the ranch, so we lived here and they gave us \$500 a month to live on.

LK: So you were sort of working for them for that time.

SS: Yes. And after that was paid off, everything was all right. But for a while, you know, with this big family, his mother, brother, two sisters. Everybody was helping, everybody pitched in. When my son was 2 1/2 years old, Grandpa was still living here, and then when my son was 5 years old he said he could remember Grandpa driving the Model T going up that hill on Ely Road. I was surprised that he knew that, it happened when he was 2 1/2 years old and he mentioned it when he was five.

LK: How did that work? Was he driving up Corona Road delivering eggs?

SS: No, We had a pick-up man come.

LK: So you raised your kids right on this ranch. [to HS:] Did you get back to this ranch here, or were you always at the other ranch.

SS: Remember, you raised three thousand pullets and they were ready to produce, and he turned the ranch over to his brother at the other ranch. And he took care of the bill. We were able to do that. Because his brother had got married, and he lived in Walnut Grove, working at an asparagus ranch, but for three years he had to send him money to start every season. For three years he sent money so his brother could start whatever he wanted to do for that season, so he said, might as well come home. So he started the other ranch, and gave it to him with chickens, so from the day he came home he was getting income. He was doing all right til he went to live on Rosenbloom's ranch, there was a big fire there and he got burned

out. Then he bought a ranch after that on Middle Two Rock, there were no chickens there, just a house, and the brother lived there until a little over three years ago, when he passed away from a heart attack.

LK: But you raised chickens here throughout, you always maintained this as a poultry ranch?

HS: Until 1962.

SS: At that time, the sack of mash was so expensive that it seemed like the feed and the eggs were about the same, we weren't getting any surplus. So in 1962 he decided to retire and since then, nothing. We've been living off of our monthly check from a mutual fund. While we were working he invested and we had a good friend in John Kelly, and he told us about this stock which was doing good, that was in '45 or '46 or thereabouts, it tripled.

LK: Then you weren't invested in Petaluma Poultry Producers, when two years after 1962...

SS: No, we had our mutual fund. After 1962, we didn't have any chickens. We took a trip to Japan, the first time we'd been off this ranch. So after we came back, we didn't have anything, not one chicken.

LK: During the years up until 1962, your children... were they all grown in 1962?

SS: Yes. Our youngest daughter got married in 1963. The oldest son got married in '55. And then oldest daughter got married in '58.

LK: So they really had all their childhoods right here on this place.

SS: Yes. They went to Petaluma High School, and the youngest one graduated from nursing school, after JC.

HS: Well, we had this Evacuation. We lost quite a bit, you know.

SS: From '42 to '46 we weren't here.

LK: That sudden departure, with no preparation, practically, you left here...

SS: They didn't give us much time. We left everything here except what we could carry.

HS: We sold the chickens...

SS: Yes, they gave us fifteen cents apiece for the chickens that we had.

LK: When you say they, you had to find a buyer among other chicken ranchers? Or did the government come in and help you...

SS: No, we had to do all that ourselves.

LK: Was the whole family able to stay together?

- SS: Yes
- LK: Where did you go?
- SS: First, we got on a train in Santa Rosa and went to a relocation place in Merced. And from Merced we were sent to Granada, Colorado. We stayed there until... let's see, this was '42 and we stayed in Colorado until '45?
- HS: No, we didn't stay that long because we wanted to find work outside. I didn't want my children to be raised in the camp.
- SS: Well, that was '45, July of '45, I remember...
- HS: So we went out to the farm.
- LK: Was that an option anybody could do? Or only people with experience such as you had?
- SS: Well, when we were in camp the Japanese boys volunteered for 442, the battalion. Because of that, we were given an option that any children could go out from camp to go to college.
- LK: Really? For high school, did they have a suitable high school there, were they getting good education, did you feel?
- SS: Yes. That was all right. But when the 442 went we were given option to go out of camp to any college you want. [On January 29, 1943, President Roosevelt announced that volunteers would be accepted in a Japanese American combat unit. At the same time the War Relocation Authority began to let some people leave the camp for school or a job.] So we left the camp so that our children could get education someplace else. We went to a town near Erie in northern Pennsylvania.
- HS: Girard
- SS: Girard, Pennsylvania.
- LK: Was that a farming community, were you could use your...
- SS: Potato. So when we got there he and my two boys, they were eleven and twelve, were given fifty cents an hour to work in the potato fields. But I was very frugal with the money, and we were meat rationed, you know. Lunch meat, all that was rationed too. Sugar was rationed. Well, I would buy chuck roast, I would figure five days. And my poor kids, I thought, gee, I don't remember what I fed them! I said, did you kids starve? And they said, no.
- LK: How did it work to decide where to go? Were there places that said that they needed help? Or did you know somebody in Girard? How did you happen to go to such a distant spot?
- SS: Oh, the camp, they sent out brochures, there's a potato ranch here, or a whatever, there. So he was able to go out of camp and check the places out first.

HS: One thing, I didn't want my children to grow up in that camp life, so I tried to find someplace to go out to raise my children. I chose Girard because we didn't expect to come back to California. I thought maybe the whole camp would send their people out, I'd like to find out in the East if there was any place that welcomed our people.

LK: Did you expect not to come back to California because you thought people would not welcome you back, or because of how you must have felt yourself, or because there was not much left here...

HS: Well, people might be against us anyway.

SS: He was going to call his mother and brother and friends if he could find more places where he could relocate, so he left the camp many times, looking for places, like he went to New Orleans, and different places, looking. In the meantime, things got better.

LK: So when the war ended, you were in Girard?

SS: Yes.

LK: So how did you make the decision to come back here?

SS: What happened is, we were still in Girard, when the camp started to send people home, and the West Coast was open. His brother came to this place first, from the camp.

LK: The war is all over now?

SS: Yes. They came home in '45, I think. We were still in Girard in '46. Then we got word that my mother was dying. She had come back here. My father had a little place in Santa Rosa, about an acre of land with just a house, no chickens. When we got a telegram saying she was dying, well, right the next day he went to pick up a trailer and we put in our belongings. My refrigerator and washing machine, and the big things, kitchen utensils, I had my dishes in a barrel, all that was shipped, but we brought home our clothing and things on a trailer.

We made the trip from Pennsylvania to Ohio, Kentucky, all the way home. It was in January so we took the south route. Now that I think back, I should have kept a diary. Then I would remember more things. Because the kids were really surprised when we stopped in Kentucky at the gas station and they wanted to go potty and there was an outhouse. And that surprised them. I remember that part of it. But the people were so nice. All through the journey everybody was so nice. When we were in Arkansas, it rained and rained and rained, and you could see just the middle of the road. That I remember. And when we got into Texas, I forgot what I fed the children, but I remember buying oranges all the time, because even if they get car sick they'll eat oranges. So that I remember. But when we stopped in Texas, a grocery man came out of his store and welcomed us, and we were so surprised. And then later on I found out that the Lost Battalion of Texas was saved by the 442 in France. So they were so nice to us, and when I bought oranges and lunch meat and bread and everything, he brought it to the car for me. I was so surprised, and later on, I thought, oh, that's the reason.

- LK: Do you think people had already begun to realize what a terrible thing had been done?
- SS: A lot of people don't know. A lot of them don't know. Even our children don't remember much of that time. The oldest were around eleven and twelve, the youngest was thirteen months old when we went to camp.
- LK: How many children do you have?
- SS: Six, two boys and four girls. The two boys were oldest.
- LK: What did you find when you came back here?
- SS: Well, the brother was here first, he came home first, he came here. The other place was sold when he left.
- LK: So he came back here. Was it in good condition? Had a person kept it up? If someone came, did they pay you rent? How did all that work?
- SS: Through the feed store, he had a Jewish man, I think he's still around, he checked the place, he made sure that people didn't damage anything, didn't take anything out.
- LK: So nobody lived here and ran the place?
- SS: Yes. We had people living here. While we were still here a Jewish man came from San Francisco and he was renting this place and raising chickens, and living in the tank house, he cooked and all. After we left, his wife and a daughter came. We found out later with our neighbor... our neighbor over there were English people, our neighbor over here was German, and they were good friends, who kept us in touch with all the things that were going on... and the lady over here said that the people by the name of _____ who rented here had a daughter who was a good pianist and she was playing on the piano that we had, and they said they used to hear her practice the piano. That I remember.
- LK: Did they pay you rent, or anything like that?
- SS: I think we were getting around \$35, \$45 a month. We got the money but it wasn't enough to pay the tax. So when the pump went out we had to send the money from camp. \$300. We don't know whether that's what it cost, but we had gotten word that pump repair cost \$300. With all the money that we were able to save, even when we were in camp, I was buying E-bonds. Whenever we needed money, I would cash in an E-bond. We had to have a car, we cashed the E-bond. The government gave us \$3, I really don't remember, \$3 apiece for our food, and they gave us \$30 a month for our clothing, and whatever they gave us for the food and the clothing, what I didn't spend, I bought E-bonds. I saved as much as I could. So I don't know whether being so frugal, whether the children liked it.
- LK: Was it hard to get started back up? Was there a lot of work to get going again?
- SS: A lot of work and it cost us, before we were able to get anything off of the ranch, to start the new flock, it cost him \$18,000.

LK: \$18,000? But you already had all the buildings and everything. . .

SS: Yes, the buildings, but the feed and everything. \$18,000. And he paid it off in about five years. And the feed man found out how honest he was, and so whenever he gets a load and the railroad car is locked, you know, so he can't open that door until he pays for it, so when he doesn't have enough money on hand, Hideo would come and help. So we worked together like that. He helped us with all the chickens and all the debt that we went in. He helped us. He wouldn't pressure him to pay. This was a local feed man, Old Man Hozz, I think he's dead now. And later on, Margolis took over the feed, didn't he? He was good enough to help. But then we didn't have to have him hold our debt. We paid him.

LK: But the period from when you came back, '45, to '62 when you retired, must have been very intense years of working on this ranch. Sending your kids to school, and paying the debt, getting re-established.

SS: That's why we didn't splurge on anything. We never went on vacation until he retired, and then we took a trip. One thing, he wanted to make sure that we could do what we are doing now. For over thirty years we have been drawing out of that mutual fund. Since '62, we have no other income but what we've been drawing on, to live on. Then Social Security, but we only get a little over \$200, the two of us.

LK: Because it wasn't until fairly late that individuals paid in to it?

SS: Well, when we were in business, we didn't have that.

LK: Did any of the children stay here, and stay in agriculture, or the poultry business?

SS: When we had the chickens, they all pitched in. They fed the chickens before school, and after school they gathered and packed eggs. I raised new flocks from baby chicks. And all six children went to college. The two boys were also in the service. Then they worked with their uncle's landscaping business in San Rafael. Now they are carrying on that business, but they live up here. The oldest son lives in Cotati, the other here on the property. The youngest daughter who's a nurse lives in Novato but comes up to Church in Sebastopol, and once a week to the JC, where she's studying Japanese language. Our family rarely spoke Japanese, we spoke English just as we're speaking now.

LK: Thank you both very, very much. We really appreciate your taking time to talk about your experiences.

COMMENTS 6/1/93:

When the transcript, and the short narrative derived from it, were brought for Mr. and Mrs. Shimizu's review and comment on June 1, Mr. Shimizu's commented, "This came out very well."

On that occasion, they gave me the signed Unconditional Release form. It was signed "Hideo and Sawame Shimizu" I asked if he preferred to be referred to as Hideo in the transcript and he said yes. He had formerly been known as Henry for convenience, but now used Hideo. That change was made throughout.

Only one of the comments was incorporated in the short narrative, to clarify this statement: "After our first child was born, I stayed here with his mother and sister. We all lived here for twenty five years." The last sentence was changed to "His mother was with us for twenty-five years until she died. It's the Japanese custom that it's the oldest son who takes care of the old folks and inherits the property, if he's shown that he's responsible."

Following are additional comments made that day, some of which have been incorporated, in italics, in this transcript for clarification.

SS: I can remember his mother saying she would throw a #2 can full of grain to the chickens, that's all, to feed the chickens.

SS: That's not quite right about "we all lived here for twenty-five years." His mother lived with us until she died. It's the Japanese custom that the oldest son stays with the parents, takes care of the old folks, and gets the property. But not always, not if he hasn't demonstrated that he's responsible.

LK: Is that partly why he helped his brother get established on the other place, because the other brother wouldn't get this place?

SS: Yes. It's also customary, he also gave all the sisters bedroom sets when they got married. It made his mother very happy.

HS: I had been back to Japan when I was five years old. My mother took the oldest three children. I was the third, and first son, of ten children. She took my two older sisters and me. No, my oldest sister was born in Japan and stayed there. She took my next older sister, myself, and my next younger sister. I was sick the whole time and she brought me back. My sisters stayed in Japan and later died there.

SS: My father had a different philosophy. He didn't send any of us back to Japan.

SS: In Santa Rosa, around my father's store, I remember the circus parades coming from the train station up Fourth Street. All the animals and clowns. And the Rose Carnival around the Courthouse. That was our stomping ground. I went everywhere, knew all the shopkeepers.

LK: Do you remember Luther Burbank?

SS: No, that was across the creek. We weren't allowed across the creek.

SS: Some traditions we have. Some things the young people don't do as much any more, but some do. We always go to the funerals of people of our community, even those we don't know as well. When someone dies, we always give money, everyone pitches in and helps, and gives money to the family to help with expenses. The funeral homes always give us special service because we can always pay in cash, not on the installment plan. In a way it's like a loan to the family. We keep a record of what we receive, and give that much back when they have a death. Though of course now we give more. In the old days, \$3, \$5, \$10, now \$25, \$50, \$100. It has helped people when they need help.

SS: We have 19 grandchildren. They're all grown, and have gone to college or are still in college. One has a PhD in Math and teaches at the university in Ohio, in Columbus. Another is a Lt. Cdr. in the Navy. We have fifteen great grandchildren. There will be more coming.

The first generation are Issei, born in Japan and moved here. Nisei are the second generation. Those names refer to counting, one, two, then there's the third generation, fourth generation, fifth generation -- Issei, Nisei, and so on.

I was born in Santa Rosa in 1912.

HS: I was born in Hawaii in 1905. My birthday was February 28, but it wasn't registered until March 8, so that's my legal birthday.

SS: They registered my birth the same day I was born.

PETALUMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Oral History Program

Unconditional Release Agreement

For and in consideration of the participation by the Petaluma Historical Museum in any programs involving the dissemination of tape-recorded memoirs and oral history material for publication, copyright, and other uses, I hereby release all right, title, or interest in any and to all of my tape-recorded memoirs to the Petaluma Historical Museum and declare that they may be used without any restriction whatsoever and may be copyrighted and published by the said Museum, which may also assign said copyright and publication rights to serious research scholars.

In addition to the rights and authority given to you under the preceding paragraph, I hereby authorize you to edit, publish, sell and/or license the use of my oral history memoir in any other manner which the Museum considers to be desirable and I waive any claim to any payments which may be received as a consequence thereof by the Museum.

PLACE 9366 Willow Ave
Cotati

DATE May 25, 1983

Hilda + Lawrence Shimizu
(Interviewee)

Lucy Kortum
(for the Petaluma Historical Museum)

762-6219

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name SHIMIZU , HIDEO HENRY
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 9366 WILLOW AVE
COTATI, CA 94931

Marital status: Married ☒ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

Birthdate 03/08/05 Birthplace WAIPAHU, HAWAII

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) 1923

Education: Elementary school DINUBA

Secondary school PETALUMA HIGH Grad 1925

College — Grad —

Other —

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) CHICKEN RANCHER, FARMER

Travels JAPAN (1962), SHORT TRIPS TO VISIT FAMILY

Organizations, clubs JACL, ENMANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
FARM BUREAU

Other special interests NATURE FARMING

Additional comments —

THANK YOU!

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Family History Questionnaire

	Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Deceased? Date
Parents*	SUYETARO SHIMIZU	UNK. 1880?	HIROSHIMA, JAPAN	Y '34
	YUKUNO TAKEUCHI	UNK.	HIGASHI HARA, JAPAN	Y '54
Brothers & Sisters	SHIZUKO MIYATA	UNK.	JAPAN	Y 70's
	GEORGE SHIMIZU	4/19/12	DINUBA, CA.	Y '92
	TOSHIKO KENMOTSU	11/1/17	CALIFORNIA	N
	LILY OTSUKA	7/19/23	FRESNO, CA.	Y '73
	MASAYE SHIMIZU	1924?	FRESNO, CA.	Y '23
Grand-parents*	4 SISTERS LEFT IN JAPAN			ALL DECEASED
	NOT KNOWN			
Spouse	SAWAYNE FURUTA SHIMIZU	11/17/12	SANTA ROSA, CA.	N
Children	MARTIN SHIMIZU	8/14/30	COTATI, CA.	N
	MARLIN SHIMIZU	7/29/31	COTATI, CA.	N
	EMMA ITO	1/31/34	SANTA ROSA, CA.	N
	JEAN TANAKA	9/17/36	COTATI, CA.	N
	NANCY HIRABAYASHI	9/27/39	COTATI, CA.	N
Grandchildren	SYDNEY YAMASHITA	4/24/41	SANTA ROSA, CA.	N
GRANDCHILDREN	MARK SHIMIZU	9/30/55	SANTA ROSA, CA.	N
	KATHLEEN TANAKA OACE	11/24/55	SAN FRANCISCO, CA.	N
	BRUCE SHIMIZU	11/17/56	SANTA ROSA, CA.	N
	EILEEN TANAKA SYLUIA	3/26/57	SAN FRANCISCO, CA.	N
	REID TANAKA	5/15/58	SAN FRANCISCO, CA.	N
	JULENE SHIMIZU LEACH	8/14/58	SANTA ROSA, CA.	N
				(OVER)

*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.

THANK YOU!

GRANDCHILDREN	WICKIE ITO MIYASHIRO	7/14/60	SAN FRANCISCO	N
	LINDA HIRABAYASHI	7/15/60	SAN FRANCISCO	N
	CINDY ITO KAWAHARA	8/15/62	SAN FRANCISCO	N
	SUZANNE HIRABAYASHI	7/20/63	SAN FRANCISCO	N
	PAUL YAMASHITA	4/20/64	SAN RAFAEL, CA	N
	ARNOLD SHIMIZU	2/10/65	SANTA ROSA	N
	DARRYL YAMASHITA	9/11/65	SAN RAFAEL, CA	N
	DARLENE SHIMIZU WINTERS	2/1/66	SANTA ROSA	N
	WARREN YAMASHITA	5/13/67	SAN RAFAEL, CA	N
	MARLEEN TANAKA PRISK	5/14/67	SAN FRANCISCO	N
	BRANDON SHIMIZU	5/4/72	SANTA ROSA, CA	N
	JILL YAMASHITA	3/2/72	SAN RAFAEL, CA	N
	CHRISTINE SHIMIZU	8/7/73	SANTA ROSA, CA	N

REFT-GRANDCHILDREN = 21

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name SHIMIZU, SAWAME FURUTA
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 9366 WILLOW AVE
COTATI CA. 94931

Marital status: Married ☒ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

Birthdate 11/17/12 Birthplace SANTA ROSA, CA.

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) LIFETIME

Education: Elementary school LEWIS SCHOOL, SANTA ROSA

Secondary school SANTA ROSA HIGH (24RS) Grad ☐

College ☐ Grad ☐

Other ☐

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) HOME MAKER

Travels JAPAN '62, HAWAII '90, OREGON '98

PERIODIC TRIPS TO RENO

Organizations, clubs JACL, ENMANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Other special interests NEEDLE POINT, COOKING

Additional comments

THANK YOU!

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Oral History Program

Family History Questionnaire

	Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Deceased? Date
Parents*	ICHIZO FURUTA	4/18	KUMAMOTO JAPAN	Y '54
	MAYU HONDA FURUTA		? JAPAN	Y '46

Brothers & Sisters	HATSUUMA FURUTANISHIJIMA	1910	SANTA ROSA, CA	Y '75
	TAKESHI FURUTA	1914	SANTA ROSA, CA	Y '90

	MIYOKO FURUTA IMAI	1918	SANTA ROSA	N
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	CONNIE FURUTA KURIHARA	1916	SANTA ROSA	N
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	MINOBU FURUTA	1920	SANTA ROSA	N
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Grand-parents* DO NOT KNOW

Spouse HENRY HIDEO SHIMIZU

Children (SAME AS HENRY SHIMIZU)

Grandchildren (SAME AS HENRY SHIMIZU)

*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.